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COMMERCIAL NEWS

NO EXCUSE FOR LACK OF SUGAR SAYS LOUISIANAN

Representative Martin Wants
Congress to Probe Situation;
Cars Only Needed

(By C. S. ALBERT.)
(Special Star-Bulletin Correspondence.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 13.—Representative Whitwell P. Martin, Progressive-Protectionist, of Louisiana, will urge congress to appoint a committee at once to investigate the sugar shortage. He believes the chances are good for the committee to be named, and is prepared to lay before it information showing to the country that the sugar shortage is inexcusable. He has just returned from Louisiana where the producers of sugar are wrought up because they are unable to get their product to the market. Mr. Martin declared that not only is there no excuse for Louisiana sugar being held up, but for sugar from the western part of the country being withheld.

"This country has plenty of sugar to supply all its needs," he declared. "The only difficulty is about getting the cars to deliver it and they could be secured by a proper distribution of freight."

"We are told that car shortage is the main reason it cannot be carried. I want to know why it is that 25 cars loaded shipped over a month ago to Washington have not been allowed to arrive. The Interstate Commerce Commission informed me that it had sent tracers after them, that apparently they were lost somewhere between Louisiana and their Washington destination."

"In Louisiana there are hundreds of tons of sugar awaiting shipment. The people there have a supply sufficient to run the country for a long time. Then there is sugar in the West that is being held up in the same way. If it all could be distributed this country would not know any shortage."

"The trouble could be remedied by the shipment of more ocean going freight to New Orleans or some other southern point. That would make a lot of empties available returning to the north and west, and the problem would be solved. I understand this plan is being considered. It would hold good if put in practice also to and from the West."

"The sugar is accumulating in Louisiana. It is discouraging to have it there and not be able to get it to the market. The people ought to know what the facts are, and I propose to bring them out if an investigation is allowed."

WALDRON CO. TO OPEN IN HILO

(Special Star-Bulletin Correspondence.)
HILO, Dec. 24.—With the beginning of the new year, or rather about the middle of January, a firm new to Hilo will open up for business. Fred L. Waldron, Ltd., the well-known Honolulu firm of commission agents, shipping men and importers, will start business in this city.

The firm has been established for many years in Honolulu and Mr. Waldron is one of the best known men in the territory. He originally was with T. H. Davies & Co., and then started in business for himself. Some years ago he formed the present company, and since then has forged ahead.

The exact location of the new business house in Hilo cannot be at present mentioned, but enough is known to be able to say that the office and warehouse will be in a central position.

The Hilo office will be in charge of F. Lamb, who has been for a long time with the firm. R. B. Booth, the manager of the company, will arrive in Hilo on Jan. 3 in order to open up the business and arrange other matters.

FLEMING VISITS ENGELS COPPER

The rapid development and improvement of the Engels Copper properties proved a big surprise to John L. Fleming of the James F. Morgan Co., Ltd., who has recently returned from the mainland where he paid a special visit to the Engels mine.

"I had expected to see a great development of the property over what it was on my last visit but I was not prepared to see such tremendous development as has taken place; on every hand were to be seen evidences of the work accomplished and everywhere was that ceaseless activity of a great undertaking in operation," declared Mr. Fleming.

The mill was not in operation when he left but it was expected that it would start about Christmas time; there having been some delay in securing transformers for the tramway. Complimenting the manager of the mine for his efficient work, Mr. Fleming said:

"Mr. Paxton expects that by the end of January, 1918, the mill will handle at least 800 tons of ore per day and by the end of March at least 1200 tons a day, and by October at least 2000 tons a day, which last figure means a production of approximately 80,000 tons of copper a day. As to dividends Mr. Paxton confidently expects that the present dividend will be double just as soon as the mill handles a total of 1200 tons a day."

STAR-BULLETIN GIVES YOU
TODAY'S NEWS TODAY

ENGELS COPPER EAGERLY SOUGHT

The spirited bidding for Engels Copper, and the continued trading in Olaa at \$5 featured the session of the Honolulu Stock and Bond Exchange this morning. Olaa held firm at the \$5 mark; 125 shares selling on the session, and 290 going between boards. Engels in the unlisted securities remained at \$4, there being plenty of bidding and no selling. The recent optimistic reports of local men returning from the mainland are believed to have caused the stock to strengthen.

On the quiet, there has been a great deal of buying in Montana-Bingham, 19,600 shares going at 37 cents between boards and 1400 selling at the same price on the session. Madera to the extent of 700 shares brought 31 cents between sessions, while 3000 Mineral Products sold at 9 cents on the board.

In the sugar stocks 25 shares of Ewa brought \$28.25, which was a quarter of a dollar less than the last reported sale, while 54 Waiatua sold at 22.50 a quarter of a dollar above the last selling price. Hawaiian Sugar shares to the number of 20 passed at \$31, a selling figure \$1.50 below the last trade.

Honolulu Stock Exchange

Thursday, Dec. 27.

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HON. OIL AGAINST ELIMINATION OF NAVAL RESERVES

Navy Department Opposed to
Giving Company Anything,
Says Senator Swanson

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 17.—Amendments eliminating from the oil land leasing bill all references to the opening of California naval reserves, were introduced today when the bill came up in the senate. Senator Pittman, in charge of the measure, agreed to accept them.

Speeches in support of the bill were made by Senator Kendrick and Senator Borah. Senator Borah said the people in the Western states are opposed to the leasing plan, but, owing to war conditions, realized that some action was necessary.

Senator Phelan read a message from the Honolulu Consolidated Oil Company, protesting against the elimination of the naval reserve section from the bill as "unjust and unfair." He explained the company controlled about 3000 acres in the reserve, and that in the legal proceedings in progress for years between the government and the claimants the company had won nearly all of its claims and the others are pending.

Senator Shafroth urged the California senator not to oppose the Swanson amendment, declaring he believed it better to leave the question involved to a separate bill.

King Flays Bill

Charges that the navy department "coerced with a bludgeon," the naval committee into reporting a "bill that would permit the confiscation of property without the process of law," were made by Senator King.

Senator Swanson replied that the head of the department was satisfied with the existing law, but was opposed to "giving the Standard Oil Company and the Honolulu Company" anything.

"All the navy department wants is to keep the present law and let the claimants go into the courts with their claims," he added. "This bill proposes to turn over \$100,000,000 to a few private corporations."

Senator Swanson also denied that Secretary Daniels had coerced Secretary Lane, and said that a bill now being prepared regulating the opening of the naval reserves provides that the final title to all claims are to be passed on by the secretary of the interior.

Senator Gallinger, minority leader, announced he was opposed to the leasing system, and would vote against the bill.

The action of government officials in attempting to get control of all the naval reserve land was attacked by Senator King, who declared the whole policy has been illegal because the claimants have rights of which they cannot be divested.

Calls It Cruel

"It was a cruel and unwarranted act on the part of the government officials," he asserted. "I don't care who they are or the motives that warranted their action. It seems to me that if we did the right thing as to those claims which have been tested in the courts, we would pass an act confirming the claim, which would be a rebuke to the officials for their officiousness."

The Utah senator criticized what he called the "bureaucratic methods" employed in handling the public domain, and declared the mining business in the West has been retarded. If the mineral lands are to be developed, he argued, they will have to be opened to the public.

Senator King asked Senator Pittman if any executive opposition to the bill had been expressed.

"I don't know if there has been any executive opposition, but I do know that some of the most influential members in the house are opposed," he replied.

"It might as well be known now in the senate," interrupted Senator Smoot, "that there is a perfect organization in the United States, and has been for ten years, known as the conservation association, and we might know it has a strong influence on congress."

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